country. Although the minimum rate of wages of the agricultural workers is fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, there is no adequate law enforcing agency to ensure, at least, such minimum wages to the agricultural workers. There is no law applicable to them on all India basis so as to provide for security of their employment, regulation of hours of work, provision for provident fund and pension and implementation of various welfare schemes. So, it is very necessary that a central legislation is enacted, which may be applicable to all the States, as is the case with other labour laws. The agricultural workers have been agitating for a long time for enactment of such a law and the Union Government is committed to bring a Bill.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to enact a comprehensive central legislation for the benefit of agricultural workers all over the country without further delay. Thank you.

**श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी** (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सभापति महोदय, मैं इनको ऐसोसिएट करती हूं और कहना चाहूंगी कि कृषि मजदूरों के लिए एक केंद्रीय कानून की नितांत आवश्यकता है लेकिन सरकार के कानों पर जूं तक नहीं रेंग रही है । हम अपेक्षा करेंगे इस सरकार से कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी इस संबंध में बिल लाए और कानून बनाए ।

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## GOVERNMENT BILLS

### The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Maritime Organisation Convention for Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf and for matters connected therewith.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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### The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1990

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1990.